PRO TIP 4 DIGITAL PRESERVATION:

LOCKSS - Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe

LOCKSS is a preservation strategy that involves not only keeping copies of your digital files on multiple of your own devices, but also sharing those files within your own community for safekeeping. This way you create preservation network to keep your files safe for posterity.

FILE NAMES

Short and Standard across files

can someone in the future understand my file?

file name should identify the item

replace spaces with_underscores

does my file name empower me or confuse me?

EX: NAME/EVENT_DATE_FORMAT_NUMBER

HOLIDAY_04032004_VHS_001

PROTEST_09042008_PHOTO_012

STILL FROM SHIRIN NESHAT, LAND OF DREAMS (2021)

inventory

WHAT DO I HAVE?

WHERE IS IT?

List your collections b/ type and location

EX: iphone photos in icloud

Home Movies on Harddrive

Create "folder" lists by year, person, or life event

EX: Digital Photos of Mom's Birthday

DVDs of protest 2008

Identify a few "burning house" digital items

EX: Last voicemail from grandmother

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

- Which digital files are absolutely important to me or would be for my loved ones?
- Where are those digital files? On my phone, an old laptop, an ipad?
- How much time and money can I realistically put forth this endeavor?
- Is there someone I feel comfortable with sharing my digital files with?
- What services do I feel comfortable using and potentially having access to my files?

hard disk drive (HDD)

Projected life span: 3-5 years*
Best for long term storage / drive can be inactive for periods of time without affecting the dat
Cheaper
Less durable to drops and temperature changes
Popular Brands: LaCie, Seagate, Western Digital (WD)

thumb drive / usb stick

Good for transport of small files
Less storage capacities - only for mp4s
Not stable for long term storage of important files
Cheapest
Space saving and easy
Popular Brands: SanDisk

solid state drive (SSD)

Projected life span: 5-10 years*
Best for quickly accessing, reading, and writing files (project use)
Expensive
Not the best with inactive storage and need to be connected to power more often for the cells inside to maintain a charge and retain your data
Popular Brands: Samsung

PERSONAL DIGITAL PRESERVATION

o T.A.P.E. zine

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"as if we had wanted to leave one remnant of our presence on this planet, they would find a frozen sturgeon mysteriously hidden away [...]. they stash it back away into its frozen shrine for another eternity."
-werner herzog

DIGITAL PRESERVATION IS...

- A set of actions one takes to manage and protect digital files to ensure their reliability, integrity, and long-term accessibility
- It is not a one-time action!!
- Think of it as a **relay race** where caretakers of these files ensure they are taking the best possible actions to hand off these digital memories to the next generation away from obsolesce and erasure